

American Embassy, Lusaka, Zambia

Public Affairs Section Newsletter

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2006 Up-coming Programs at the American Center

- **February : Black History Month commemoration**
 - Poetry Night, February 9
 - Video Show on Rosa Parks, February 22
 - Book Discussion, February 23
 - Soul Food Night, February 28
- **March: DVC program on Economic Empowerment for Muslim women.**
- **April: Earth Day commemoration in conjunction with the Environmental Council of Zambia.**

AMBASSADOR CARMEN M. MARTINEZ ARRIVES IN ZAMBIA

Carmen M. Martinez is the new Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Zambia. She presented her credentials to President Levy Patrick Mwanawasa, on December 12, 2005.



Ambassador Carmen Martinez presenting credentials to President Levy Mwanawasa at State House.

During the ceremony, Ambassador Martinez said that the United States values its growing partnership with the government and people of Zambia, reflected by new initiatives that include the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) program, African Contingency Operations Training Assistance, and the White House's initiative for Women's Justice and Empowerment. She said that as a result of these and other initiatives, overall assistance from the United States to Zambia has grown from about \$40 million in 2001 to more than \$200 million in 2005.

President Mwanawasa thanked U.S. President George Bush for PEPFAR, saying the initiative was helping Zambia to rapidly strengthen and scale up existing HIV/AIDS treatment, prevention and care. He appealed to the U.S. government to help Zambia meet the Millennium Challenge Account criteria.

A career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister-Counselor, Ambassador Martinez served previously as Chief of Mission in Rangoon, Burma (2002-2005), Principal Officer at the U.S. Consulate General in Sao Paulo, Brazil (1999-2002), Deputy Chief of Mission in Maputo, Mozambique (1997-1999), Principal Officer at the U.S. Consulate in Barranquilla, Colombia (1993-1994), Chief of the Consular Section in Quito, Ecuador (1989-1993), and as a Consular Officer in Bangkok, Thailand (1986-1989), and Caracas, Venezuela (1983-1985). She is married to Victor Reimer and they have a son, Alexander Reimer.



Ambassador Martinez (left) with U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice (center) and Zambia's Ambassador to the U.S. Inonge Mbikusita-Lewanika in Washington, DC

SPECIAL EVENTS

Rosa Parks (1913-2005) Challenged the American Conscience

By Dehab Ghebream

American school children in particular, and other children, in general, have learned and will continue to learn about Rosa Parks from history books. She was an ordinary and underprivileged woman who stood for freedom and changed America and the world.

Tribute to Rosa Parks:

Parks is the first woman and the second African-American to be honored by lying-in-state in the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol building. President Bush ordered all United States flags on public and military facilities to be flown at half-staff on the day of Parks' interment. President Bush, first lady Laura Bush and members of Congress laid wreaths at Parks' casket during a short ceremony featuring remarks by the chaplains of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

In the words of President George W. Bush, her refusal to give up her seat to a white man was "show of defiance, an act of personal courage that moved millions" and an example that "helped touch off the civil rights movement and transformed America for the better." Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, a Birmingham native, spoke at an October 30 memorial ceremony before an overflow crowd at the city's St. Paul AME [African Methodist Episcopal] Church, to which Parks belonged at the time of her arrest. "Without Mrs. Parks," the Secretary said, "I would not be standing here today as Secretary of State. 'Not only did she set off a revolution of freedom and a second round of emancipation here in the United States, but she is also revered around the world,'" Rice added.

Speaking after Mrs. Parks' death, U.S. Representative Charles Rangel

of New York said: "I truly believe that there's a little bit of Rosa Parks in all Americans who have the courage to say 'enough is enough' and stand up for what they believe in. She did such a small thing, but it was so courageous for her as a humble person to do."

Rosa Parks' Life:



A recent photo of Rosa Parks

Born Rosa Louise McCauley on February 4, 1913, in Tuskegee, Alabama, Rosa dropped out of high school to care for her sick grandmother. In 1932, she married barber Raymond Parks, who encouraged her to earn her diploma, which she did in 1934, and to become active with the local branch of the Na-

tional Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

In the summer of 1955, Parks attended an interracial leadership conference at the Highlander Folk School, a school founded in Mont Eagle, Tennessee, to train labor organizers. The school subsequently branched into the training of desegregation advocates and numbered the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. among its attendees.

Parks was a 42-year-old Montgomery resident in December 1955 when she took a middle-row seat on a Cleveland Avenue bus. The first four rows were reserved for whites only, with blacks limited to the rear and only permitted in the middle if no white passenger wished to sit there.

On this occasion, Parks declined to give up her seat. On a 1987 television documentary, she recalled this exchange with the bus driver: "When he saw me still sitting, he asked if I was going to stand up and I said, 'No, I'm not.' And he said, 'Well, if you don't stand up, I'm going to have to

call the police and have you arrested.' I said, 'You may do that.'" Parks was jailed and fined \$14.

In 1996, when President Bill Clinton awarded Rosa Parks the Presidential Medal of Freedom, he declared that Parks had "ignited the single most significant social movement in American history." In addition to the Presidential Medal of Freedom, Parks was also a recipient, in 1999, of the Congressional Gold Medal. After giving Parks the medal at the Capitol Rotunda, President Clinton spoke of a need for continued work towards freedom: "I thank the Congress for honoring Rosa Parks... But remember, my fellow Americans, freedom's work is never done. There are still people who are discriminated against... There are still people that because of their human condition are looked down on, derided, degraded, demeaned, and we should all remember the powerful example of this one citizen. And those of us with greater authority and power should attempt every day, in every way, to follow her lead."



Montgomery, Alabama December 1, 1955

Expressing her appreciation upon receiving the award, Mrs. Parks said, "I receive this Congressional Medal...for the thousands of participants in the Montgomery Bus Boycott, and for the thousands who will complete the work undone.... As my legacy of 'quiet strength' passes to the youth of this nation...I am very confident that we shall overcome."

SPECIAL EVENTS

Americans and Zambians build “Friendship House” for Zambian family

By Mark Maseko

On November 18, 2005 Zambian and American staff from the U.S. Mission in Lusaka worked in partnership with Habitat for Humanity Zambia to construct a second “Friendship House” for a needy Zambian family. The house was built through a grant of US\$6,000 to Habitat for Humanity Zambia. Deputy Chief of Mission Andrew Passen presided at the event along with a number of prominent Zambians, including First Re-

publican President Dr. Kenneth Kaunda. The family that will own the new house also took part in the construction.

Attendees unveiled two “Brennan Street” road signs at the Habitat for Humanity site as a commemorative farewell gift from U.S. Mission employees to Habitat for Humanity in honor of former U.S. Ambassador Martin Brennan and his



U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission, Andrew Passen, and former Zambia's first president Dr. Kenneth Kaunda help each other lay a block.

family, who volunteered regularly to work at constructing houses at the Habitat for Humanity site.

The local print and electronic media supported the event by providing very good coverage. Construction of a house for a Zambian family demonstrated warm relations between Zambia and the United States.

Amid a growing need for decent shelter among many Zambians, the new house will meet this need for physically handicapped beneficiary Patrick Ngosa, his wife and three children who will own the house.



From right to left: U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission Andrew Passen, Defense Deputy Minister Patricia Nawa, Matero MP Chance Kabaghe and former President Dr. Kenneth Kaunda unveil a street sign in honor of former U.S. Ambassador to Zambia Martin Brennan.

SPECIAL EVENTS

U.S. Mission in Zambia Commemorates 9/11 Attacks on the U.S.A.

By Patricia Mulenga

To commemorate the 2001 September 11 attacks on the United States, the Public Affairs Section organized a press event with eight Chiefs of Mission representing the United States, United Kingdom, France, Saudi Arabia, Russia, Tanzania, India and Egypt (countries represented in Zambia which have suffered recent terrorist attacks).

The diplomats gave remarks on how their respective countries had been affected by terrorism as well as efforts by their governments to fight the war on terror.

Some of the twenty-five journalists who attended the event had an opportunity to ask questions and seek clarifications on various issues surrounding this subject.

The event demonstrated resolve by many peace-loving nations and individuals to work together in fighting

terror. There was a consistent message from the envoys that no nation is immune to terrorist attacks and the international community “must marshal the necessary assets to root-out those who



U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission, Andrew Passen (fourth from right) with Ambassadors and High Commissioners from the United Kingdom, Russia, France, Tanzania, Saudi Arabia, India and Egypt during the event at the American Center.

would use terror to advance political ends.”

The Public Affairs Section also displayed a 9/11 paper show at the American Center. Additionally, George Mwanza, a sculptor, exhibited his work, “Echoes of World Peace and



Public Affairs Officer, Dehab Ghebreab, presenting “Images of Terror” slide show.

Unity.” Other activities were also held as part of September 11 commemorative events. On September 11, Deputy Chief of Mission (then Chargé d’Affaires) Andrew Passen hosted a welcome luncheon for 70 new Mission employees and gave remarks on September 11 and the ongoing rebuilding efforts. On the same day, Mr. Passen welcomed newly arrived Peace Corps volunteers and talked about September 11 in his remarks. On September 12, Mr. Passen addressed Zambian Defense Forces, participants in the African Contingency Operations Training Assistance (ACOTA). The organizers of the program started the event with a prayer for those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.



Public Diplomacy Officer Laura Gritz representing the American Embassy during the Ngoma Awards Ceremony.

U.S. Embassy Presents HIV/AIDS Recognition Awards at Zambia’s Ngoma Awards Ceremony

On Friday, December 2, at Zambia’s Ngoma Awards Ceremony, Public Diplomacy Officer Laura Gritz presented three Zambian cultural groups with the “Most Socially Conscious Artist HIV/AIDS” award on behalf of the U.S. Embassy. The Ngoma Awards are Zambia’s premier cultural awards and recognize top Zambian artists in all genres.

The “Most Socially Conscious Artist HIV/AIDS” awards were funded by the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) through a grant to Zambia’s National Arts Council. The awards recognized Zambian artists and groups who have contributed the most to HIV/AIDS outreach, discussion, and reduction of stigma. Approximately one thousand people attended the ceremony, which was broadcast live on nationwide television via government station the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC).

HIV/AIDS - HEALTH ISSUES

Zambian Journalists Receive Training on HIV/AIDS Reporting

By Mark Maseko

The Public Affairs Section (PAS) of the U.S. Embassy in Lusaka successfully helped in training 60 Zambian journalists on HIV/AIDS reporting with funding from the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) between July 25 and August 18, 2005.

Print and electronic media journalists were trained in two groups of 30 and benefited from both class work as well as field trips to Kafue and Kapiri-Mposhi that enabled the journalists gather stories that were broadcast on radio and television as well as for publication in newspapers.

The training was a joint partnership of the U.S. Embassy, the Kaiser Family Foundation, the American International Health Alliance and the Zambia Institute of Mass Communication (ZAMCOM). Two prominent American journalists, Phil Hilts and Suzanne Marmion, facilitated the workshops and participants appreciated the ex-

pertise brought in by the seasoned journalists.

A moving TV report of a Zambian woman in Kafue living with HIV/AIDS, who could not afford to buy ARVs, was produced by Ms Inutu Himanje, a Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation (ZNBC) TV producer and participant in the first workshop. The story was broadcast on ZNBC TV twice.

This piece won the best entry in the television category of the 2005 U.S. Embassy-sponsored Media Awards for best coverage of HIV/AIDS Issues. Coincidentally, the winning entry in the print media category by Dean Mwaanga of the Zambia Daily Mail, was also done through field work in Kapiri-

Mposhi, focusing on the work by *Medecin Sans Frontieres* (MSF) and the community in fighting HIV/AIDS in the town.

HIV/AIDS activist and physician, Mannasseh Phiri, who served as one of the resource persons in the first workshop, challenged journalists to report real issues on HIV/AIDS and not dwell on speeches by officials and press releases. HIV-positive Activist Princess Kasune Zulu,



U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Andrew Passen shakes hands with Josephine Chitalu who is happy to receive her certificate. Looking on is Sports, Youth and Child Development Permanent Secretary Barbara Chilangwa.

equally challenged participants to appreciate the work being done by HIV-positive people in combating the pandemic. One participant said that prior to the workshop, he thought the subject of HIV/AIDS was being exaggerated. Journalists said the workshop has helped them realize the need to write about HIV/AIDS stories with a 'human face.'

Speaking during the official closing ceremony of the second workshop, U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission, Andrew Passen, urged journalists to communicate compelling messages that would help defeat the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Zambia. He said AIDS was a silent enemy that had waged a silent war on humanity.

Plans are underway to, in January 2006, bring together the same 60 trainees to share experiences and success stories of their work after the training they received.



Princess Kasune Zulu responding to a journalist's question during the workshop.

HIV/AIDS - HEALTH ISSUES

U.S. Embassy Awards Journalists for HIV/AIDS Reporting

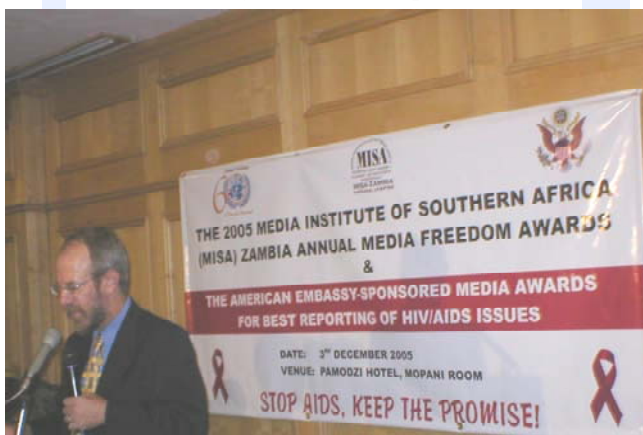
By Mark Maseko

U.S. Embassy Lusaka Deputy Chief of Mission Andrew Passen on December 3, 2005 presented awards to journalists for best coverage of HIV/AIDS issues in Zambia.

Mr. Passen commended journalists for their efforts in sensitizing people about the dangers of HIV/AIDS. In his speech during the awards ceremony in Lusaka, jointly held with the Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA) Zambia Chapter Media Freedom Awards, Mr. Passen also underscored the power of the media in enhancing democracy through checks and balances.

Zambia National Broadcasting

Corporation (ZNBC) staffer Inutu Himanje scooped the best television entry while Zambia Daily Mail reporter Dean Mwaanga won in the print media



U.S. Embassy Lusaka Deputy Chief of Mission Andrew Passen addressing guests before presenting awards to journalists.

category. Radio Icengelo, a community radio station based on the Copperbelt, won in the Radio category. Each of the

three winners received a cash prize of 2 million kwacha and a plaque.

Since 2001, the U.S. Embassy, through its Public Affairs Section, awards Zambian journalists who excel in HIV/AIDS reporting. The awards, which coincide with World AIDS Day, recognize the important role that journalists play in helping fight HIV/AIDS through accurate and consistent reporting.

This year, the U.S. Embassy partnered with and provided a grant to MISA Zambia to conduct peer review and selection of award recipients. A call for entries for the 2006 awards will be announced in September.

U.S. Embassy Funds Production of “Mwana Wanga” HIV/AIDS Video & Radio Program

By Patricia Mulenga



Ms. Barbara Hughes (middle), Dr. Miti (left) and Dr. Mirriam Chipimo during the launch.

The United States Embassy, the Ministry of Health, and other partners, on October 4, 2005 launched “**Mwana Wanga**” or “**My Child**”, a thought provoking, three-part video production that focuses on the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission (PMTCT) of HIV during pregnancy, delivery and the postnatal period.

The project is funded through the U.S. President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), with additional funds from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). “Mwana Wanga” demonstrates how pregnant women receive Counseling and Testing (CT). Those who test positive for HIV receive counseling on how to reduce the chances of transmitting the virus to their babies during pregnancy, delivery and infant feeding.

The stories also highlight strong elements of male involvement in PMTCT, as well as the role of the family in preventing new HIV infections. By depicting real situations and desirable behaviors, this program hopes to encourage more mothers, their partners and families to participate in PMTCT activities.

USAID Director for Population, Health and Nutrition, Barbara Hughes and Zambia’s Health Permanent Secretary, Dr. Simon Miti, underscored the importance of providing information to expectant mothers to protect their infants. Also present during the launch was Dr. Mirriam Chipimo from the Central Board of Health.

DEMOCRACY & HUMAN RIGHTS

U.S. Embassy Promotes Democracy & Human Rights in Zambia

By Patricia Mulenga

The United States Embassy has provided \$80,000 to seven Zambian organizations to undertake activities aimed at promoting democracy and human rights in Zambia. The funding is being provided under the U.S. Embassy's Democracy and Human Rights Fund (DHRF).

Agreements formalizing these initiatives were signed on September 13, 2005 during a ceremony held at the American Center in Lusaka. Speaking at the function, U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission (then Chargé d' Affaires) Andrew Passen called for concerted efforts in spreading democracy and human rights.

Mr. Passen said, "It is not just the United States that recognizes the central role of human rights in political and public life.... And while there is no one "universal" way to define human rights, we have faith that all humankind is born with the right to live in dignity and justice. We trust that individual conscience will guide each of us to respect the

human rights we should ALL enjoy."

The Democracy and Human Rights Fund is intended to support activities that promote political pluralism and human and civil rights. It provides grants to indigenous organizations for small, focused, relatively dis-

into Braille for the blind, developing training manuals, empowering women economically, and conducting awareness workshops on issues such as HIV/AIDS, child rights and raising citizens' participation in democracy.

The grant recipients and amounts were as follows:

- 80:20 Educating for a Better World, Lusaka (\$13,000.00)

- Concerned Young People Movement, Lusaka (\$8,000)

- Forestry Wildlife and Human Development Association, Lusaka (\$10,000.00)

- Initiative for Sustainable Rural Livelihood, Central Province (\$12,000)

- Kawambwa District Guidance and Counseling Association, Kawambwa (\$10,320)

- Organization for the Promotion of Meaningful Development through Active Participation (OPAD), Central Province (\$14,000).

- Southern Africa Center for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (SACCORD), Lusaka (\$12,680).

Small-scale assistance to Zambian organizations is part of an ongoing commitment by the U.S. government to support Zambian-driven development activities and the emergence of a vibrant civil society.



Deputy Chief of Mission Andrew Passen (second from right) with 2005 recipients of Democracy & Human Rights grants.

crete, short-term, high-impact activities. In the past, DHRF grants made a significant local impact and strengthened small groups that otherwise would not have received financial or organizational support.

Recipients of the 2005 DHRF grants were drawn from Lusaka, Central and Luapula provinces and will implement wide ranging community activities including transcribing laws

DEMOCRACY & HUMAN RIGHTS

PAS Lusaka Promotes Awareness of Trafficking in Persons

By Yvonne Chona

In commemoration of International Youth Day, PAS Lusaka on August 12 held a "Human Trafficking Awareness" program involving over 90 youths from various youth organizations in Lusaka.

The program included a documentary video show titled "Dying to Leave" which highlights the unfortunate expansion of people smuggling and human trafficking in a globalized world. This was followed by a lively and highly informative open discussion led by three key Zambian experts in the subject area.

The panel comprised HIV/AIDS activist

Merab Kiremire (the founder for MAPODE - Movement of Community Action for the Prevention and Protection of Young People Against Poverty, Destitution, Diseases and Ex-

ploitation), Mr. Peter Kanunka, the Victim Support Unit Coordinator based at the Zambia Police Service, and Ms. Suya Nthani, a Social worker with the Department of Social Welfare at the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services.

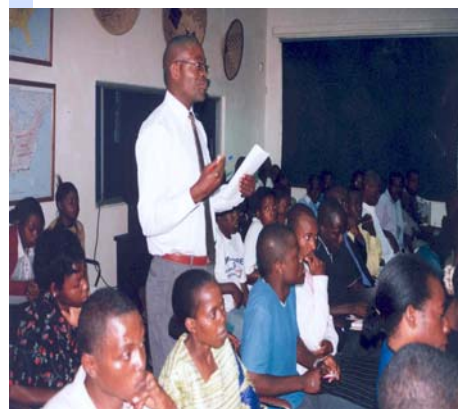


Women and children activist Merab Kiremire addressing youths who participated in the human trafficking awareness program.

The program provided a forum for the various stakeholders, including a government representative to dis-

cuss strategies that should be put in place at national level to combat human trafficking. Among other things, the participants felt that there was need to come up with a law that would not only deal with the prosecution of perpetrators but also protect the victims and educate the public about this form of what one speaker called "modern-day slavery."

PAS has established contacts that will lead to further positive dialogue with the various stakeholders.



A participant asking a question during the event.

U.S. Embassy Signs Grant with Moto Moto Museum of Mbala, Northern Province



U.S. Embassy Deputy Chief of Mission, Andrew Passen and Moto Moto Museum Acting Director, Evaristo Nkole Sosala signing the grant documents.

The United States Embassy in Lusaka has provided USD 20,048 to Moto Moto Museum of Mbala to help in preserving Zambia's cultural heritage. The grant has been provided under the Ambassador's Fund for cultural preservation. The project will identify, document and preserve Zambian slave route sites, places of memory and monuments. It was noted that there has been no serious effort in Zambia to identify and document sites related to the slave trade. The U.S. Embassy, Deputy Chief of Mission, Andrew Passen, and Moto Moto Museum Acting Director, Evaristo Nkole Sosala presided at the grant signing ceremony at the American Center on September 8, 2005.

The urbanization of Zambia, coupled with expansion of the economy, will undoubtedly lead to the destruction of these culturally significant sites if they are not marked and preserved in the near future. Considering the United States' direct relationship with slavery, as a recipient country of a large number of slaves, this project will definitely provide a bridge between African-Americans in the United States and the people of Zambia. The signing ceremony created an opportunity for many Zambians to learn more about the United States government's commitment to cultural preservation around the world.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Public Affairs Section Celebrates International Education

Lusaka Educational Advising Office commemorated the sixth annual International Education Week (IEW) that took place from November 14-18 by hosting several programs focused on international education. The opening program was an outreach session at a local secondary school, Rhodes Park, with 50 students in attendance. Educational Advisor Annjeanette Jones discussed the benefits of U.S. education with emphasis on undergraduate institutions and their degree programs, the admission process, financial aid, student visas and required tests. The next day, Mrs. Jones arranged a digital videoconference between Zambian students and the Kennesaw State University international admissions office. During this DVC, the university's admissions officer made a surprise announcement granting in-state tuition (a yearly reduction of over

\$7,000) to any of the Zambian students present who might be admitted someday. The educational advisor also offered a presentation on U.S. higher education for undergraduate admissions which included a discussion on student visas with the Embassy Consular Officer Josh Fischel. The program also included a book display on U.S. colleges and universities. At the end of the presentation, Mrs. Jones accompanied by the Consular Officer also gave media interviews that were carried by national-wide media including the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation

The students asked good questions about scholarships, degree majors and exams required to apply to U.S. tertiary institutions. Several days before the start of IEW commemoration, Zambia's largest

circulation Daily, The Post, carried a very positive, full-page article in its Education Post supplement following an interview with Ms. Jones. This has led to inquiries from prospective students seeking information on U.S. study.



Educational Advisor Annjeanette Jones briefs Rhodes Park secondary school students on how to apply to U.S. colleges and universities.

PAS Lusaka Educational Advising Center Assists Students in securing \$500,000 in Scholarships

Thirty-three Zambian students who were admitted into U.S. colleges this fall have secured more than \$500,000 dollars in scholarships



Chris Holmes, Fulbright Scholar with Jessica Ernst, Summer Intern & other invited guests during a pre-departure orientation session.

and grants. These students attended the Public Affairs Section (PAS) group educational advising sessions and one-on-one counseling during their college application process.

Educational Advisor Annjeanette Jones provided information on college admission requirements, assisted with the selection of suitable colleges, and made available information on financial aid opportunities.

Additionally, educational materials in the PAS Information Resource Center (IRC) assisted the students in locating schools that give partial to full scholarships to international students with outstanding academic back-

grounds. The students also utilized other Education Advising Center (EAC) services such as essay writing workshops, practice test sessions and individual consultations to improve their admission opportunities.

EAC resources and one-on-one counseling with the Education Advisor played a significant role in these students maximizing their scholarship and grants awards. This is double the amount of assistance received last year by Zambian students.

Assisting Zambians attain college education will in the long term contribute to the country's human capacity building and development.

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Educational Advisor & Information Resource Center Staff reach out to the Ministry of Education

By Annjeanette Jones

On October 27, 2005, the Information Resource Center and the Educational Advisor addressed over 40 officials from the Ministry of Education on the services and programs offered by the Public Affairs Section (PAS), specifically the various information resources offered by the Information Resource Center. The officials were informed on how to utilize Information Resource Center (IRC) services to enhance their professional development research requirements in their respective fields, and also how the IRC can support appropriate national Curriculum Development programs. IRC staff also spoke about the weekly Internet training sessions offered and encouraged the participants to attend. The Educational Advisor delivered a presentation on studying in the U.S. and answered questions from the audi-

ence related to application procedures, and different types of graduate funding. As a way of further promoting IRC services, twenty-five PAS customized mouse pads were donated to the computer lab at the Ministry.

The day of the presentation coincided with a meeting of Provincial Education Officers and District College Lecturers at the Ministry. Hence, all the officials from the provinces attended the presentation, increasing the outreach efforts even further. The officials were also given IRC posters and brochures to take with them to their provinces. IRC staff spoke of possible areas of cooperation, such as book dona-

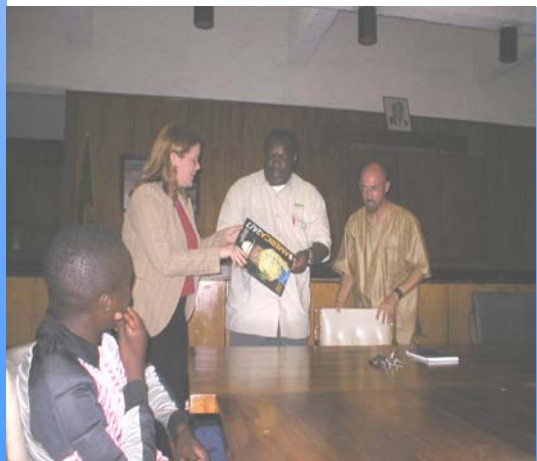
tions to the various stakeholders. The officials also expressed a greater appreciation and understanding of the higher education system in the U.S.



Educational Advisor, Annejeanette Jones, making a presentation to teachers and other Ministry of Education officials.

American Fulbright Scholar in Zambia Gives End-of-Grant Lecture

By Laura Gritz



Dr. Andrew DeRoche (right) at the end of the lecture looks on during "America:24/7" book presentation.

American Fulbright scholar, Dr. Andrew DeRoche, gave an end-of-grant lecture entitled "Zambian Foreign Policy in the Kenneth Kaunda Era: 1965-1970" at the University of Zambia on November 30, 2005. American Embassy staff attended along with approximately thirty faculty and students from the University's History Department.

Dr. DeRoche, a professor of American history at Front Range Community College in Colorado, presented the findings of his research in Zambian archives over the past ten months of his grant. The lecture was very well received, with the University. History Department Head of Department, Dr. Webster Kalikiti stated that Zambian historians should make more effort to conduct similar research.

WOMEN'S ISSUES

PAS Lusaka Hosts 20 Muslim Women to Commemorate Ramadan & Observe Eid

By Matildah Sakala

On November 3, 2005, the United States Embassy, Public Affairs Officer, Dehab Ghebream in conjunction with Political/Economic Officer Jill Derderian hosted a group of women from the Lusaka Muslim Women Trust Fund, a local NGO that promotes community development through education and income generating activities.

The program, which culminated with dinner to observe Eid,

provided an opportunity for embassy staff and Muslim women to interact and share information on various issues including future programming with the larger Muslim community in Zambia. The Political/Economic Officer gave an informative presentation on the Ambassador's Self Help Fund and the Democracy & Human Right Funds. She encouraged the women to get more information from the relevant office at the U.S. Embassy in Lusaka. This forum cut across culture and religion and gave staff an opportunity to learn about Islam and the various roles that Muslim organizations play at community level.

The ladies were delighted to share ideas on the importance of Ramadan and the various activities associated with this important month.

This gathering, the first of its kind at the Public Affairs Section, provided an excellent platform to exchange ideas. More importantly, the women left the American Center



PAO Dehab Ghebream stressing a point sided with Political/Economic Officer Jill Derderian and Muslim women leader Aisha Kayabwe.

knowledgeable and delighted, knowing the American Embassy in Zambia was ready to work with the Muslim community.

Included in the program was a tour of the Information Resource Center, which was an eye opener to the women who confessed that access to the Internet is still a service for a privileged few especially women, who are still marginalized regardless of religious background. "Accessing the Internet would be a morale booster and empowerment to Muslim women, thanks to the American Embassy for this service." One of the guests remarked at the end of the program.



Lusaka Muslim Women Trust Fund members listen attentively to Jill Derderian.

Public Affairs Staff Share Ideas & Learn About Islam

The observation of Eid (marking the end of Ramadan) was a very good learning experience for Public Affairs Staffer, Josie Simwale, who, for the first time in her entire life, had a glimpse of the Muslim 'bible'; the Q'uran (Koran). Josie learned that the Koran is written in both Arabic and English, and has a set of principles and values that govern the Muslim faith. "I think such gatherings should be encouraged because other people will learn and have a better understanding about Muslims and why they behave in a certain manner, just like Christians behave in a certain way too," said Josie.

This gathering encouraged religious and cultural diversity amongst women's groups to foster national development.



PAS staffer Josie Simwale & Fatima, share ideas from the Koran & other books.

WOMEN'S ISSUES

The American Embassy in Zambia Empowers Muslim women with Internet Searching Skills

By Matildah Sakala

The Information Resource Center (IRC) in Lusaka conducted an Internet training session on November 17, 2005 that opened up new horizons for Muslim women in Zambia.

The training, that started with basic Internet training skills,

searching skills, the women were able to locate Muslim women organizations world wide and discussed the possibility of networking with such organizations.

One striking request that the women made was

to visit the White House website so as to learn more about America and its people. They confessed that there were a lot of issues that they did not understand about America and would be happy to know more about its foreign policy.

This program introduced the women to other ways of communicating via the Internet,

such as through Digital Video Conferencing discussions and e-mail that have opened up as a result of the coming of the Internet.

The women appreciated the knowledge acquired and were more than delighted to demonstrate to PAS staff



PDO Laura Gritz listens to Aisha Kayabwe as she explains her newly acquired skills

what they had learned. The women requested for more programs to reach out to as many Muslims in Zambia as possible. They noted that with such programs many Muslims would be provided with a better understanding of the United States of America.



IRC Director, Matildah Sakala, with the Muslim women before the start of the Internet training session.

gained momentum as women started gaining confidence and knowledge on how to search for information from the Internet.

Through this training the women were able to appreciate their own religion as they were able to find a lot of information on various issues including the rights of Muslim women in a democratic society.

Using their newly acquired



U.S. Embassy, Public Diplomacy Officer, Laura Gritz and IRC Director, Matildah Sakala with Muslim women after an Internet training session.

WOMEN'S ISSUES

NGOs Call for end to Violence Against Women

By Matildah Sakala

On November 23, 2005, PAS Lusaka in conjunction with prominent non-governmental organizations spearheaded a thought provoking and action oriented discussion program to support the international call to eliminate violence against women.

Led by the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) Director, Ms. Katembu Kaumba, the discussions brought out a number of gender based violence con-

cerns that perpetuate human rights violations against women, for instance. It was noted that marriage has now become a high risk factor, especially in Africa where customs and traditions have failed to empower women to negotiate for safe sex despite some men's irresponsible behavior. It was observed that most traditions embedded in customary law are being used as a conduit for rampant violence against women, who are viewed as part of the property owned by husbands. It was however noted that

with so many mitigating institutions that have been put in place in the country, such as the Victim Support Unit under the Zambia Police Service, the Drop-In Center at the YWCA, the Legal Aid Clinic for Women, and the newly launched Men's Network for the Elimination of Gender Violence,



Left to right is : Ms. Katembu Kaumba, (YWCA), Ms. Sharon Williams (LDC) & Ms. Matrine Chuulu (WILSA).

the battle is slowly being won. Ms. Lucy Masiye-Lungu (YWCA) presented countrywide statistics to show case this achievement.

All the NGOs present during the program pledged to continue working together with the Gender In Development Division (GIDD) at Cabinet Office in ensuring that customary laws are revised to match with the changing time. The Men's Network was challenged to reach out to their fellow men, who are hard-core human rights abusers by working with established institutions such as drop-in centers and victim support units. Participants applauded the American Embassy for promoting gender issues by organizing this forum.



Gender activist from the YWCA Drop-In center explains the launch of the Men's Network program and the role it will play in behavior change amongst the men folk.

BUSINESS & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

International Visitor Program Alumnus Frederick Mwendapole Chairs the “150 years of Sighting the Victoria Falls”

By Mathews Mumbi

Livingstone City in the Southern Province of Zambia was a hive of activity on November 16, 2005 when the country's tourist capital celebrated the 150th anniversary of Dr. David Livingstone's first sighting of the Victoria Falls. Events were organized by the Livingstone Events Organization (LEO), which is chaired by Fredrick Mwendapole, who is a former Mayor of the City of Livingstone, and a participant in the International Visitor (IV) Program on “*State and Local Government in the United States of America.*”

The LEO partnership takes a passionate approach towards increasing the number of tourists to Livingstone and generally improving the livelihood of the people of the city. This is done through enhanced preparatory

communication of programs between all partners including transparent negotiations among government, private sector, labor and other stakeholders.



Frederick Mwendapole, former Mayor of the City of Livingstone and International Visitor program alumnus, chaired events celebrating the 150th anniversary of Dr. David Livingstone's first sighting of the Victoria Falls.

During his tenure of office as Mayor of the country's tourist capital, Livingstone, Mwendapole coordinated a host of institutions which contribute to the welfare of the town. Mwendapole is a distinguished icon of leadership with excellent working relations with the private sector, traditional authorities and government departments. For example, Mwendapole often collaborates with traditional leaders in resolving matters relating to labor and culture. His participation in the IV program unquestionably broadened his understanding of government operations.

Intellectual Property Rights Enhanced in Zambia

Zambia is one of the 17 countries that benefited from the United States of America-sponsored multi-regional International Visitor Program on “Protection of Intellectual Property Rights” held from 12 July to 5 August 2005 in the U.S. Chisha Laurence Folotiya, Managing Director of Mondo Music Corporation attended the program which focused on policy development to establish laws and guidelines both for domestic and international trade; application of policy, review of procedures of granting copyrights, trademarks and patents from the government and private applicant perspectives. The program highlighted enforcement efforts by federal officials, local law enforcement and the courts, including inspection, investigation, litigation and application of penalties for violators within the U.S. and with

other countries. In addition, training for law professionals, the judiciary and enforcement professionals to understand the intricacies of property rights laws and their application was discussed. Participants heard critics who questioned whether or not current intellectual property policies threaten access to information, discriminate against individuals, companies and development efforts in other countries.

Altogether, participants came away with appreciation for the rule of law in the global trade and business communities and sustainable strategies to the development of new intellectual property rights. Out of this exposure, Mr. Folotiya gained enhanced networking skills and strategies to mitigate the problems of music piracy in Zambia. Through his improved networking with the Zambia Police Service's Anti Piracy Squad, the 400-strong Zambia Music Copyright Society (ZAMCOPS) and other stake-

holders, over 1 million audio and video-tapes have been confiscated in the raids by the Anti Piracy Squad, while some perpetrators of piracy have been charged by the courts. In addition, a vigorous campaign has been mounted in the country to compel commercial users of music (such as hotels and lodges) to begin to remit royalty to musicians, music composers and publishers.



Chisha Folotiya (right) with his colleagues at the FBI Indianapolis HQ with Special Agent In Charge (middle).

INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER OUTREACH

Regional Information Officer (IRO) Presents Books to Muslim Community School/Orphanage.

Regional Information Resource Officer, Anne Carson from the Bureau of International Information Programs (IIP), visited a Muslim community school and orphanage in Lusaka to familiarize herself with IRC outreach programs that are being spearheaded

to reach out to Muslim communities in Zambia.

Presenting a selected set of scholastic books and the “America 24/7”, a presentation book that covers American culture and values, Ms. Carson advised the school to look after the books well. She encouraged the children to make use of the materials. Carson noted the importance of reaching out to diverse groups throughout the world, and Zambia in particular. In return the children presented educative poems and sketches on the fight against HIV/AIDS.

The children shared their knowledge on Islam and the five principles that govern their religion. The program demonstrated how children can be valuable resources for information dissemination in society.



Muslim school children at the orphanage, welcoming staff from the American Embassy



IRO Anne Carson with Lusaka Muslim Women Trust Fund/Community School Director Aisha Kayabwe at the orphanage

PAS Lusaka Donates Scholastic Books to Kusinta Rotary Club

The Public Affairs Section donated an extensive collection of Scholastic books to

the Rotary Club of Kusinta – an affiliate of Rotary International. Cub Chair Person, Michael Schiott, expressed appreciation for the books and stated that the donation would go a long way in supporting the club’s literacy project.

The club has identified Kyundu Basic School – a community school located east of Lusaka as the main recipient of the books. The American Embassy in Zambia gives

support to institutions of learning through outreach programs such as this one. Scholastic books are part of a special book program by the U.S. State Department’s International Information Program (IIP) which began in 2004 designed for public diplomacy outreach to primary and secondary youth audiences. There are currently thirteen different book sets designed to communicate U.S. history, culture and values to primary and secondary students.



IRC Assistant, Yvonne Chona, handing over the books to Rotary Club of Kusinta Chair, Michael Schiott.

AMERICAN CORNER—KITWE

Fulbright Scholar Discusses Benefits of Studying in the U.S. With Prospective Students

By Linda M. Simbeye

The American Corner-Kitwe conducted a discussion on studying in the USA, led by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the Copperbelt University & former Fulbright scholar, Dr Ernest Beele, and Mrs. B.S. Mtonga, Lecturer from the School of Technology at the same University.

The presenters shared their experiences on the benefits of studying in the USA and discussed the differences in the education systems of the two nations (Zambia & USA) as well as the diversity of the American culture, society and values. They also highlighted the significance of having adequate funds and scholarships as part of the preparation stages for people wishing to undertake studies in the U.S. The event was well attended by a targeted audience that included Deans of Students

from the Copperbelt University and Mindindolo Ecumenical Foundation, college principals, senior lecturers, accountants, students and secretaries.

This also presented a good platform for American Corner staff to inform the audience about its services and activities especially on U.S. education. The Dean of Students from CBU appreciated the discussion and requested that more programming of this nature be encouraged.

Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation in Kitwe is host of the first American Corner in Zambia, a partnership with the U.S. Embassy to provide information on U.S. society and culture.

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B. Mtonga, Lecturer (left) Dr Ernest Beele, Vice Chancellor CBU, & Cris Akufuna, Public Relations Officer (MEF) during the program in the American Corner.

English Teaching Forum Magazine Utilized for American Corner Programming



Students, teachers and American Corner staff during the discussion forum.

The American Corner-Kitwe held an English Language forum on August 10, 2005 which brought together teachers and students to look at improving reading and public speaking skills.

Although English language is introduced at a tender age in most Zambian schools, a lot of students face numerous problems as they enter high school because local languages are frequently used in most homes.

In addition, most students do not receive adequate training on how to use English language dictionaries. This educative program was facilitated by John Mumba, a Mindolo language Master. He tackled these issues using the Forum Magazine that provided a lot of web resources on public speaking. He also used Webster's Ninth New Collegiate dictionary to cover semantics and

phonetics.

The attendance was 100% as the targeted number of students and teachers turned up from two community schools, Salem Village and Ituna.

Students were happy to be part of the program and appreciated the skills and knowledge acquired. One participant said, "Today, I've been equipped with tools on overcoming stage frights during debating sessions." They urged American Corner staff to organize more educative programs such as this one. The forum provided a good platform to market American Corner activities to schools.

AMERICAN CORNER—KITWE

American Corner promotes Human Rights & reading culture through Martin Luther King, Jr. video tape & bookmarks

By Dunstan Chikonka

On August 16, 2005, the American Corner in conjunction with the Fun-time Television Program (ZNBC) held an educational program on Human Rights and improving reading culture among the youth in Zambia.

The program was led by the Head Librarian at Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation, Mr. Dunstan Chikonka, who conducted an American Corner orientation with the children, and introduced them to various American Corner activities. The children later watched a video show on "Martin Luther King Day – Holidays for children". This was to show-case on the

contributions that Martin Luther King, Jr. made, and that children have a role in community development as regards issues of human rights and democracy and other issues that surround them. Emphasis was made on equality for all and not "segregation" in school places and communities where they live.

The children were presented Bookmarks given to the American corner by an American intern who was working on a project called the "Zambian child." The presentation was meant to encourage the children to read books as much as possible and use correct instruments

for page identification in order to reduce on wear and tear of books that result from folding of pages.

The response from the children was overwhelming. They learnt that all people are equal and need to live in harmony with one another. They also learnt how to live in peace in their communities and the importance to fight for equal rights and uphold democratic principles. The program was a good platform to continue marketing American Corner services through electronic media. It was well covered by the Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation.

American Corner Commemorates World Literacy Day

The American Corner at Mindolo Ecumenical Foundation in Kitwe, in conjunction with teachers from Mary Sikaneta Demonstration Pre School joined the rest of the world in commemorating the International Literacy day, which fell on September 8, 2005.

The International literacy Day has been commemorated since 1966 with organizations

such as United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and United Nations emphasizing the importance of bridging the literacy gap. This can only be attained if everyone can participate and make a contribution to see that at least a 50% Literacy level is achieved in Zambia. As a contribution towards this goal, the American Corner invited children from Mary Sikaneta Demonstration Pre School and conducted reading and writing sessions.

The American Corner chose the reception class because they were being prepared for Grade 1, and therefore needed a good foundation in literacy skills.

Later the children were given library orientation so they could appreciate the importance of libraries and information resource centers. They were taken around to see where they can find appropriate reading books for children. Resources used during the teaching session included "Easy to read book sets" by Oxford Publishers. The atten-



Children outside the MEF Library after the program



Children sitting in the American Corner

dance was 100% as the targeted number of children and teachers turned up for the program. The preschool supervisor, appreciated the gesture extended to the school. He appreciated the skills and knowledge the children acquired from the program.

The children requested to have a similar program included in their school setting. They noted that the environment in which the program was set up was in itself a motivating factor as compared to the usual classroom set-up.

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For information on HIV/AIDS related issues visit the following websites:

<http://www.awmc.com>

<http://www.unaids.org>

<http://www.aids.org>

<http://www.cdcnpi.org>

<http://zambia.usembassy.gov>

For information on Eliminations of Violence Against Women visit the following websites

<http://www.unhchr.ch/huridocda/huridoca.nsf>

<http://www.un.org/depts/dhl/violence>

<http://www.unicef-icdc.org/publications/pdf/digest6e.pdf>

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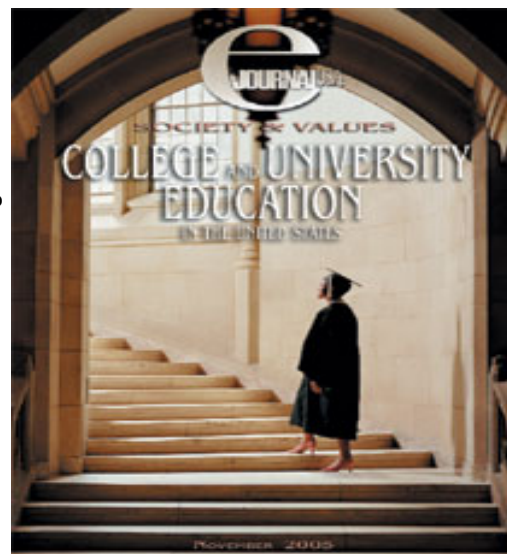
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